Little Forest

リトル・フォレスト

6th dish

Bakke (Butterbur Sprouts)

Seven years ago

Huh?

Would it be such a problem for you to wake up a little earlier...?

Ichiko...

The bus is going to come soon so I need to get going.

Ah...

If you'd help a little with shoveling the snow around the front of the house then it'd be...

Could you pick some bakke for me? That's all I need you to do.

Okay, see you later!

I told Kikko that I'd make some bakke miso for her.

It snowed today, so you're off from work in the mountains, right, mom?

Oh, the bakke might be hidden by the snow.

I've got to shovel all the snow off the road...

Oh well.

Do you have any idea of how long that's going to take?

But it's almost spring.

It'll be the last time it snows for a while.

I don't think it's ever snowed in May before.

It has!

It's been snowing since last night.

Mornin'!

It's crazy!

I can't believe how much has piled up!

pluck ぽつ

pluck ぽつ

pluck

BUBBLE BUBBLE

SHAKE SHAKE

mirin...

and sugar.

CHOP CHOP

Miso.

I'm home ...

Mom?

Hmm? The lights aren't on.

Not enough sugar.

Oh, the bakke miso's ready.

With that, my mother had disappeared.

Maybe she had to go to a meeting... or something...

C'mon Ichiko, stop lumberin' about! Take yer work seriously!

Oh, I bet that...

It's cause she's just a young'un.

C'mon, move those feet.

When you get home, the house is probably all warm,

you leave all the housework to your wife, don't you?

all that's left for you to do is talk about how it's been a long day at work.

dinner's already waiting on the table, and

Well, I've got to do it all by myself no matter how tired I am.

If the laundry's piling up all you probably do is complain.

While I'm working here, none of them are getting done. I've got to take care of every single thing, one at a time. If I'm shoveling the snow, then there's no way I'm going to finish chopping the wood. And it's all 'cause I'm on my own now.

I've got to earn the money,

and there's nobody to split the chores at home.

I've gotta do everything by myself here.

Don't act all high and mighty tellin' other people to work harder when you make your family do whatever you don't wanna do.

You have no idea how difficult it is to not have a family around to help split the work...

There's no way you people would ever understand how much effort it takes when you've been so pampered by your families.

I-chi-ko?

really consider me... family...?

Did she

Mom?

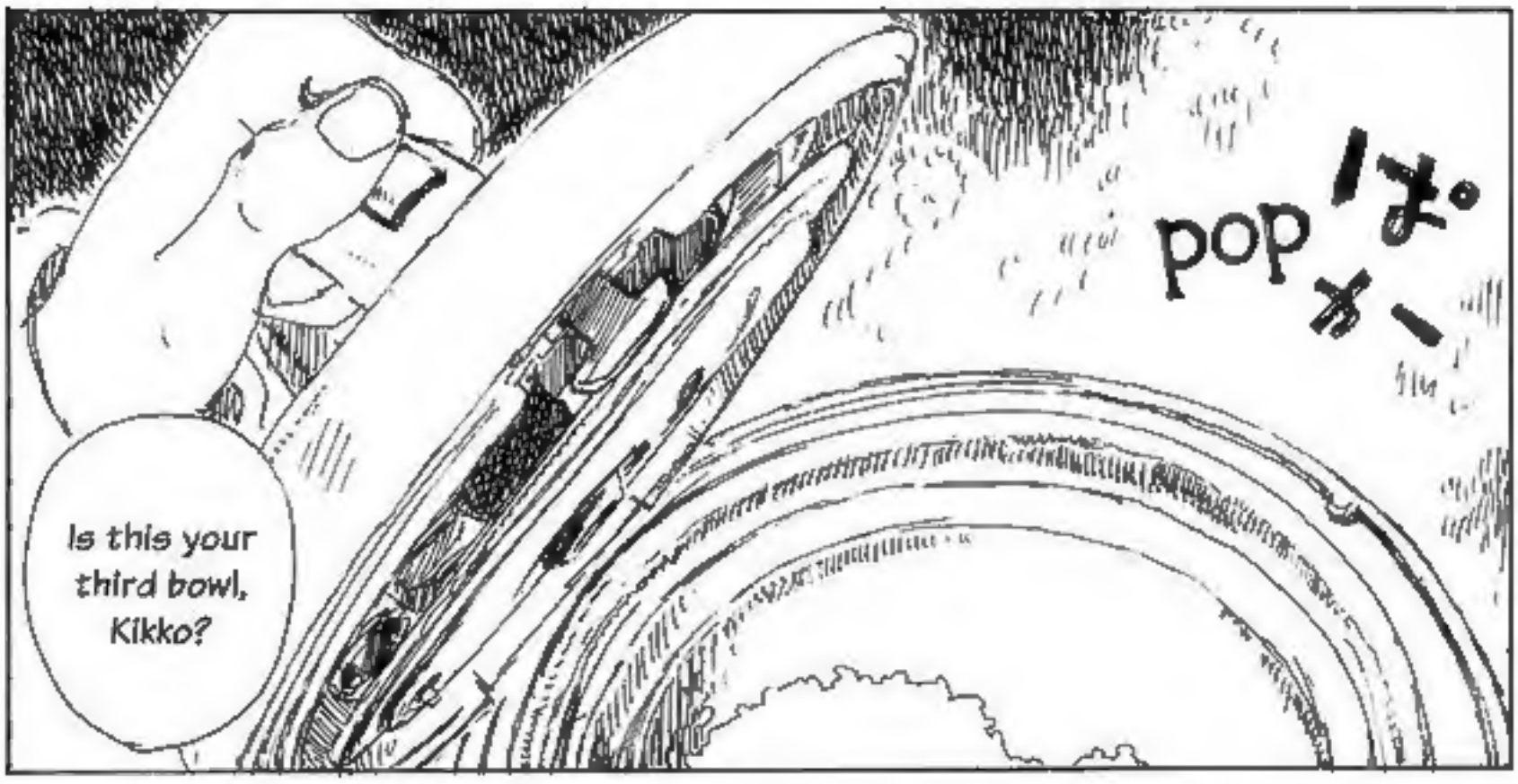
Huh?

You've got to be down here to see them.

See, here they are.

There are so many of them here.

Bakke.


Is this your third bowl, Kikko?
pop
Yeah, my third one.
You just can't stop yourself when it comes to bakke miso.
Yeah, it's so good that it's dangerous!
I heard that bakke miso will keep for around a year if you put it in the fridge.
You can live off of it forever.
You know, my mom...

pour some hot water in it, and call it "miso soup".

she would put bakke miso in a soup bowl,

when she didn't have time,

Ahaha...

You got some hot water?

Yeah, it's pretty good.

...

That sounds... pretty good.

Nah, let's try it plain first.

Want to put some green onions and seaweed in it?

6th dish Bakke (Butterbur Sprouts) END

As far as bakke miso goes, it tastes even better if you let its full flavor develop by mixing it together with miso after stir-frying the blanched bakke in some oil. The amount of bakke to miso you use is pretty much up to you, and even if you don't use that much bakke, if you keep it around for a couple of months after you make it, the flavor will start to seep into the miso, making it very tasty.

There was this Japanese marten that was sniffing around in the middle of some butterbur flowers, along one of the ridges between a rice paddy where the snow had thawed. I thought maybe it was munching on some bakke, but it was probably looking around for some bugs. The color of its body was this vibrant orange that really stuck out.